

Keep It Short Statistics

-Utah's Short-Term Occupational Projections

Fastest Growing Utah Occupations

With at least 100 Annual Openings
2006 - 2008

Annual Growth Rate

Service Unit Operators, Oil/Gas/
Mining 14%

Rotary Drill Operators, Oil/Gas 13%

Comp. Software
Engineers, App. 8%

Network Systems
Analyst 8%

Comp. Software
Engineers, Systems 7%

Medical
Assistants 6%

Cabinetmakers/
Bench Carpenters 6%

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

For the most part, economists love to let markets do their own thing. It's their conviction that if given enough time, markets will reach equilibrium and the world will be in balance—meeting the needs of both supply and demand. Unfortunately, in the short term, markets and economies may struggle to reach that seemingly elusive point, and short-term shortages and oversupply can occur.

It's not a Labor Shortage...

Labor shortages certainly seem to appear in the short term as certain industries may unexpectedly and rapidly flourish. Of course, to economists, there are no labor shortages, only wage shortages. However, short-term occupational projections can certainly provide insight about labor requirements in the near future to supplement the long-term projections we typically produce.

So let's take a quick look at our most recent set of short-term projections. Before starting, here are a couple of quick reminders. These projections only provide information on the "demand" side of the labor market equation. Also, job openings occur for two reasons—growth and replacements for those leaving the occupation.

What's Different?

Some interesting patterns emerge from the current set of short-term occupational projections that differentiate them from the long term:

- Construction/extraction (mining) occupations show much more rapid growth in the short term than in the long term reflecting a surge in energy-related activity and a strong



construction sector. Annual openings are also up substantially for this group of occupations.

- Architecture/engineering, business/financial operations, and production occupations also exhibit faster short-term expansion than the long-term projections show.

The two fastest-growing occupations with at least 100 annual openings are both related to oil/gas extraction—again mirroring growth in oil/gas activity.

What's the Same?

Current short-term projections reflect the 2006-to-2008 time period. Typically, short-term and long-term projections don't differ dramatically. Here are some common themes:

- Healthcare and computer/mathematical occupations are always among the fastest-growing groups of occupations.
- Large occupations typically have the most openings simply because they start out large. For example, retail sales persons and cashiers are the largest occupations in Utah (the U.S., and almost every county). They also show the highest number of openings—in the short term and in the long term.
- Other occupations which consistently show high openings regardless of time frame include fast-food workers, customer service representatives, heavy truck drivers, laborers, janitors and child care workers.
- Computer software engineers (applications and systems software) and network systems analysts/data communications analysts continue to be among the fastest-growing occupations with at least 100 annual openings.
- Jobs requiring a bachelor's degree or higher continue to increase their share of the total labor market.

Higher Pay and Higher Openings

Are you interested in occupations with better pay and lots of openings? You might want to check out these occupations which should provide both in the near future:

- Registered Nurses
- Accountants/Auditors
- Sales Representatives, Technical/Scientific
- Real Estate Agents
- Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software
- Computer Programmers
- Construction Managers
- Computer Software Engineers, Applications

For more information on Utah's short-term occupational projections see: <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/outlooks/state>

